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# THE EDGE

The Voice of Integrity  
at Fort Hays State University

April 10, 2007; Volume 2, Issue 13 ●●● Hays, Kansas 67601

www.TheOnlineEdge.net

## Aikido Club seminar to feature famous sensei

Mike Courson  
Staff Writer

Everybody was Kung-Fu fighting. Well, not exactly. In reality, there's more to the Fort Hays State University Aikido Club than just kicking and punching. Aikido is a modern variety of martial arts that uses an attacker's energy against himself.

Student will get the chance to see Aikido in all its glory when the club hosts a seminar this weekend featuring Toyoda-Sensei, the director of the Aikido Association of America and the International Aikido Association.

Toyoda has been practicing the art since the age of three. His father, Shihan Fumio Toyoda, is an internationally renowned as a Zen Master and early disciple of Aikido.

"This is an extremely rare opportunity to have someone so well versed in Zen-Breath meditation and Aikido self-defense in Western Kansas," said Brandon Nimz, president of the club. "I would strongly encourage all FHSU students, faculty, and staff to attend."

The events kick off at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 13, in the Cunningham Hall Gym, room 121.

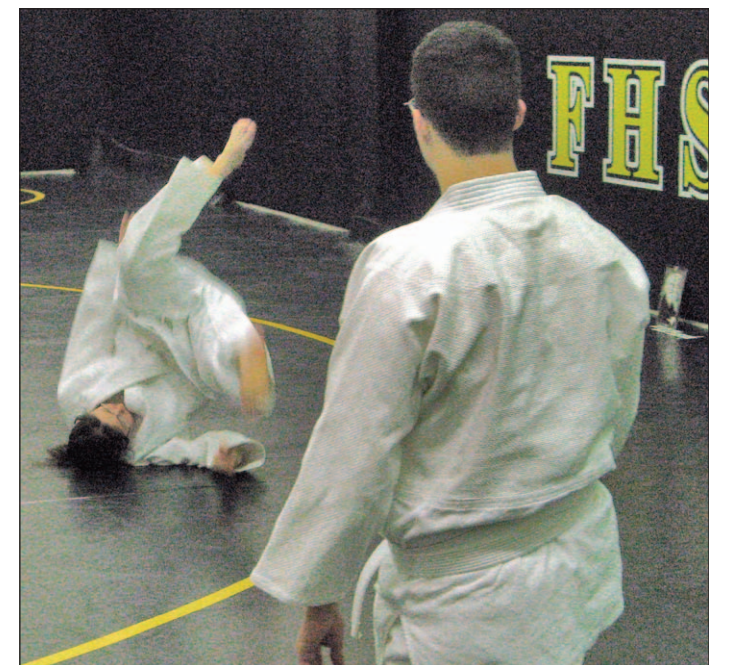
Aikido consists primarily of body throws and joint-locking techniques used to disengage an opponent or make him submit. It was created with the goal of allowing the user to defend himself without injuring his attacker.

Since it's beginnings in 2001, the Fort Hays State Aikido Club has grown to include about 30 students. The club practices Aikido on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-to-9 p.m. in the wrestling room in Cunningham Hall.

"We do a series of defensive tactics that are based on utilizing an attacker's energy against him," said Fort Hays State Sensei Richard Lisichenko. We also practice the art of falling so we don't get injured when people practice techniques on us." All Fort Hays students are eligible to participate in the club. Meetings are held before or after practices. There is no membership fee to join. Interested students can simply show up to a practice session or contact Lisichenko or Andria Cooper.

At the seminar on Friday at 7 p.m., a Zen-Breathing session is offered. Saturday, starting at 9 a.m., the seminar will feature Aikido techniques. No martial arts experience is required, and anyone in attendance can sit out of any technique if they wish. Sunday morning will be a continuation of the techniques. The seminar is free to Fort Hays students and faculty. For others who are interested, there is a \$30 fee Friday and Sunday, and a \$60 fee Saturday.

"It is a great club with dedicated and serious students," Cooper said. "They are a fantastic group to work the art with. Our Sensei, Dr. Rich Lisichenko, is very patient and knowledgeable."



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Aikido Club practice their martial arts skills in Cunningham Hall. The group is hosting a seminar starting April 13. All students are welcome to attend.

## Students offer thoughts on mobile computing

Mike Courson  
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago, *The Edge* ran an article featuring the thoughts of several professors about the new mobile computing initiative set to take full effect next semester at Fort Hays State. This week, several students chime in with their own opinions on the topic.

Because tablet computers are mandatory for all incoming freshman and transfer students, they will see the brunt of changes with the new system. Brooke Zoller

is a senior at Hoisington High School, and plans to study Business Management and Political Science next year at Fort Hays State. Already, she sees some of the possible benefits of the new system.

"Taking notes will be easier, and you will be able to take them faster," she said. "With everyone on a laptop, it will be easier to contact faculty and other students." Though she plans on spending about \$1,000 on the tablet, she says the cost will not be a factor

for her. "I think FHSU going to laptops is a good thing, and the advantages will by far outweigh the disadvantages."

Dakota Drake, a senior at Great Bend High School who plans on majoring in Biology next year, sees things differently. She plans on spending \$1,200-to-\$1,500 for a new tablet and is concerned about the costs.

"I am struggling just to pay for college," she said, "so this added cost isn't doing me any favors." Furthermore, she worries about

the tablets not working properly. "If your computer crashes and all your information and all your school work is on it, I guess you're out of luck."

"One reason, in fact, the main reason I am choosing to attend FHSU is its affordability. The added burden of providing myself with a tablet makes this schools affordability seem less appealing."

Returning students have the option of buying tablets and sharing the new technology, but many

are not willing to buy another computer when they already have one.

Sophomore Stephanie Mike-sell thinks a tablet would be beneficial, but just bought a laptop. Junior Brandon Nimz agrees. "I already own a laptop, but it's not a tablet," he said. "I don't feel the tablet functionality is worth the money to upgrade my existing system to a tablet."

SEE 'COMPUTING'  
ON PAGE 7

## Student Government Association

Election 2007

April 11-12

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## EDITORIAL Stay home and vote

“Get out and vote!”

That is a common tagline for many public service campaigns around election time.

For this week’s Student Government Association elections, though, students need not get out in order to vote.

In fact, now students can vote from the comfort of their own computer screen through TigerTracks.

With the new online elections system, students do not have any excuse not to vote.

The voting system, activated with a few simple clicks, will make voting easier than ever.

For a tutorial on how to activate the “Elections” channel in TigerTracks, see our website: [www.TheOnlineEdge.net](http://www.TheOnlineEdge.net).

The system is simple, easy and should increase student voter turnout.

Now all that is left is for students to embrace the technology and prove online voting can work at Fort Hays State University.

Get informed.

Learn about the candidates. Vote.

Make your voice heard!

**-Zach Becker**

*For the Editorial Board*

## Dreams of youth don’t always pan out

Put on your hard hats and do not look up. You might catch a falling dream right in the eye.

As a child, I expect everyone had a dream or several. Sadly, as life goes on, so do many of the dreams. Looking back, I’ve lost sight of my three biggest dreams: the perfect girl, the perfect job, and the whole idea of a working democracy.

Let’s face it; relationships are the biggest dream of all. In theory, if you find the right person, everything else more or less falls into place.

Going to the job you hate is tolerable if you have someone waiting for you at home. And who cares what the government is doing when you can cuddle in front of a movie? However, if you do not have someone waiting, well, the world can be a bleak place.

Love is one of those ideals you have from childhood. Everything is innocent back then, and the idea of being happy with someone is not too big a stretch of the imagination. As you get older, however, maybe you see the dysfunctional side of people. Or they see that side of you.

Relationships evolve into more than just hanging out as you acquire responsibilities and bills. Love turns into something bigger than a feeling. Unfortunately, the ultimate pedestal, marriage, works only half the time in this country. With numbers like those, it’s fairly evident that I’m not the only one with drowned dreams of lasting love.

If kids have one dream bigger than love, it’s an ambitious career; professional athletes, doctors, lawyers, veterinarians.

If each kid fulfilled his or her dream, the world would have few janitors, clerks, truck drivers or most other professions.

My dream, besides most of the above mentioned careers, was to be a cop. Not just any cop, but a super detective working for a state agency.

My idea was not based on the likes of Sherlock Holmes or any other fictional character, but the countless detectives, investigators and profilers in the many



**Mike  
Courson**  
*Staff Writer*

nonfiction books I read on the subject. In other words, it was very real to me. And I knew all along I had the brains to do it. As it turns out, contrary to popular belief, brains can’t get you many places.

I lasted a whole four months as a beat cop/dispatcher in a small north central Kansas town. About midway through, a supervisor broke a major law. When nothing was done about it, I used my discontent as motivation to ask the hard questions - so what if I got fired.

While technically I resigned a couple months later, it was forced. More important than the loss of my first real job was the loss of the dream of being a cop.

In those few months, I realized I’d wasted a college education pursuing a career of which I wanted no part. I was amazed that so many of my classmates have traveled similar roads.

Now we work as college educated whatevers. And we still have to pay off those loans.

Finally, maybe freedom is too abstract

for kids, but we are told all about it from the beginning. Maybe we hear so much good about it, really, that we neglect to see that it’s not as real as portrayed. There is no free speech when you can lose your job or sponsorship for spoken or written words. It’s hard to call our government “for the people” when the corporations are the ones reaping all the benefits.

In Kansas, it’s impossible to believe your vote counts in a presidential election if you vote for anyone other than the Republican candidate. And “freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose.” When you have a house, car, spouse, or children, your freedom is limited to what you can and cannot do and still pay the bills.

In the end, maybe I’m just a little too cynical. I will admit that only the dream of finding a true love is truly impossible to leave behind. That’s the one area we can all control...kind of. Obviously mutual consent is required.

As for the others, to heck with them. Find the job that works and makes you happy, not that looks good on paper and makes you rich.

And our government is only as corrupt as we allow it to be. Someday people will decide to change it. Until then, keep that hard hat strapped on.

Fallen dreams can cause quite the headache.



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Mission: *The Edge* newspaper staff strives to act as a voice of integrity on the campus of Fort Hays State University. *The Edge* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach every article with honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service in mind.

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## Computing

CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 1

Other returning students simply cannot afford the technology.

“I think the computers are a good thing,” said Sophomore Julianne Dirks, “but I have no intention of buying one because I don’t have the money.”

Spike Lloyd seconds that opinion. “I’m probably not going to buy one because I don’t have the funds. I want to, but I don’t have the money for it.”

Some students simply do not want a tablet computer. Freshman Isiah Hoesli, a computer programming major, worries about the durability of the computer.

“I don’t think the screens last on them if you keep (switching between tablet and laptop mode),” Hoesli said. “I have doubts that it would last very long.”

He believes the tablets may offer mobility, but doesn’t see a big difference between tablets and other laptops.

Others still say the price of a tablet outweighs the benefits since they will be graduating soon.

“As a returning student, I will not purchase a tablet PC,” said senior Laura Shaw. “Since I only have one more semester on campus, I find it pointless. However, if I were a sophomore, I would probably consider it.”

“Mobile computing is going

to have a huge effect on classes—most of them will likely be geared towards students with tablets.”

Shaw has used tablet computers and has seen the good and bad.

“We used tablet PC’s in my physical science class, and I really enjoyed them,” she said. “We used the program Dyno, and it was especially helpful when working on experiments.”

“We would split into different group to do the same experiment and write the answers on our tablet. Tablet PC’s made class fun.”

While she enjoyed using the tablets, she also cited times in which technical difficulties caused her problems.

Though she advocates the new system, she thinks making them mandatory may not be the best solution.

Sophomore Holly Lee plans to eventually buy a tablet.

“I already have a desktop, so I’m planning on spending a little under \$1,000 if I can find a decent one,” she said. “You can get things done a lot faster because you don’t have to wait to go home and use a desktop and you can get information faster.”

While students vary in opinions on mobile computing, one thing is for certain; the program will be implemented in the fall.

## Film discussing evolution to be shown at Sternberg

Fort Hays State University’s Science and Mathematics Education Center is sponsoring a free showing of the film “Flock of Dodos: The Evolution-Intelligent Design Circus” at 7 p.m. April 12 at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History.

The film includes information about the debate between intelligent design and evolution, as featured on the covers of Time magazine and Newsweek magazine in 2005, and focuses specifically on the extinct dodo bird.

When Portuguese sailors arrived on the island of Mauritius, they found the dodo bird and soon realized it was easy prey, being

unafraid of humans and unable to fly.

Since the bird couldn’t evolve along with its environment, it became extinct at the end of the 17th century.

The film humorously tries to discover who the dodo birds are in today’s society.

With scientists who are failing to promote evolution as a scientifically accepted fact, intelligent design advocates, and the American public, it makes the comparison.

A panel discussion about faith and science, and the communication difficulties between them will follow the showing.

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Baseball takes on Truman State

Cole Reif  
Sports Editor

The Tiger baseball team spent their Easter weekend in Kirksville, Mo., where they battled Truman State University.

Fort Hays State lost the opening game to Truman State, 2-1, in heartbreaking fashion. On a day where the Tigers could only muster out three hits, they got a tremendous outing from their ace, Bobby Lewton, on the mound. Lewton pitched the first six innings, giving up only one run until the last inning came around.

As the second batter came to the plate for the Bulldogs, Lewton gave up one pitch, which was crushed by the batter over the fence for the walk-off homer to give the Bulldogs the victory.

After that, the Easter Sunday kindness was over. Fort Hays State took control of the second game of the doubleheader early. The Tigers jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead in the opening inning.

Jason Pfeifer led the way for the Tigers, hitting 2-of-5 with three RBI's, while Justin Randa picked up the win.

Fort Hays State took care of the last-ranked team in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association standings once again on Monday.

Rob Nelson, Luke Dreiling and Tyler Konrade definitely brought their bats to the field for the second day of action. Nelson went 4-of-4, while Dreiling connected on 3-of-4 and Konrade finished 3-of-3 at the plate with four RBI's to lead the Tigers to a 7-1 victory.

The Tigers and Bulldogs remained scoreless in the first three innings, but then the Tigers unloaded in the next four innings, scoring all their runs. Tom Goodwin picks up the win for Fort Hays State, pitching the entire ball game.

The Tigers did not even bother asking where the Easter eggs

were hidden in the final game of the series with the Bulldogs, because everything that was pitched to them looked about the size of ostrich eggs as the Tigers belted out twelve hits to win the game 11-0. Brent Biggs may have gotten out of a slump as he went 3-for-4 on the evening to lead all batters for the Tigers. Aaron Nuss gets credited with the win after pitching two innings and allowing only two hits.

The three wins over Truman State gets the Tigers to 21-12 on the season. Fort Hays returns home tomorrow afternoon at 2 p.m. with a doubleheader against Washburn University. The rescheduled "Pack the Park" festivities will also take place this coming Friday as the Tigers take on the Mules from Central Missouri State. Everyone is encouraged to join the event in an attempt to break last year's attendance record of 1,868. Game time on Friday is set for 7 p.m.



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Local elections garnered little turnout

Election season has already come and gone and questions abound whether anyone actually noticed or cared.

Multiple towns around the area had their city (and some county) elections this last week. Voter turnout in Hays was just over 24 percent (of eligible registered voters).

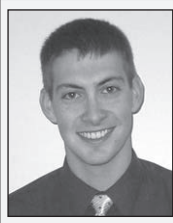
That is hardly anything to be proud of.

Apparently some people in this town don't have some of their priorities set straight.

With big issues such as the wind farm up in the air, it would seem that people would be fighting to get in line first at the voting precincts.

Regardless, that didn't happen, and it's laughable that a mere 14 votes separated the three candidates who came in third.

If the newly elected officials are anything different from what



Brandon Worf  
Staff Writer

we've had, then we may be in for some significant improvement within the city of Hays.

I've always been a firm believer that serving in public office and owning a business at the same time provides for a huge conflict of interest (prime example: George W. Bush and Dick Cheney), regardless of what type of business it may be.

The end result almost always ends up with more politicking than is necessary (if necessary at all), and the taxpayers get the brunt of it all.

With all the changes in the city

commission, I think that some more proactive legislation regarding housing and renting may *finally* pass, so that renters in this town may actually be able to live in housing that doesn't violate housing or fire codes (or both) without having to pay insanely high rent at the same time.

The difficulty of running a city such as Hays with two or three distinctive demographics of people is high, but those vying for the seats knew this going into the election.

Whether they pay heed to this fact remains to be seen, and I certainly hope they do it with more regard to the overall public than the last batch of yo-yos did.

It's a bit perturbing to hear about issues such as the wind farm just mere weeks before they're to be voted on, when they should be brought to light from the very beginning.

When the powers at be begin hiding things from the people that got them into office in the first place, it's time to replace them. Lucky for us, I think that happened last week.

As for the new commission members, I'm anxious to see who will be proactive and community minded instead of being stubborn and introverted.

It's high time that Hays had

some progressive-thinking individuals in charge, not those who refuse to accept reality for what it is and particularly not those who twist reality to fit their own needs or whims.

If I am to say anything to the new members, I will say this: be wise, be pertinent and prudent, but don't get carried away.

You never know, people might like it for once.



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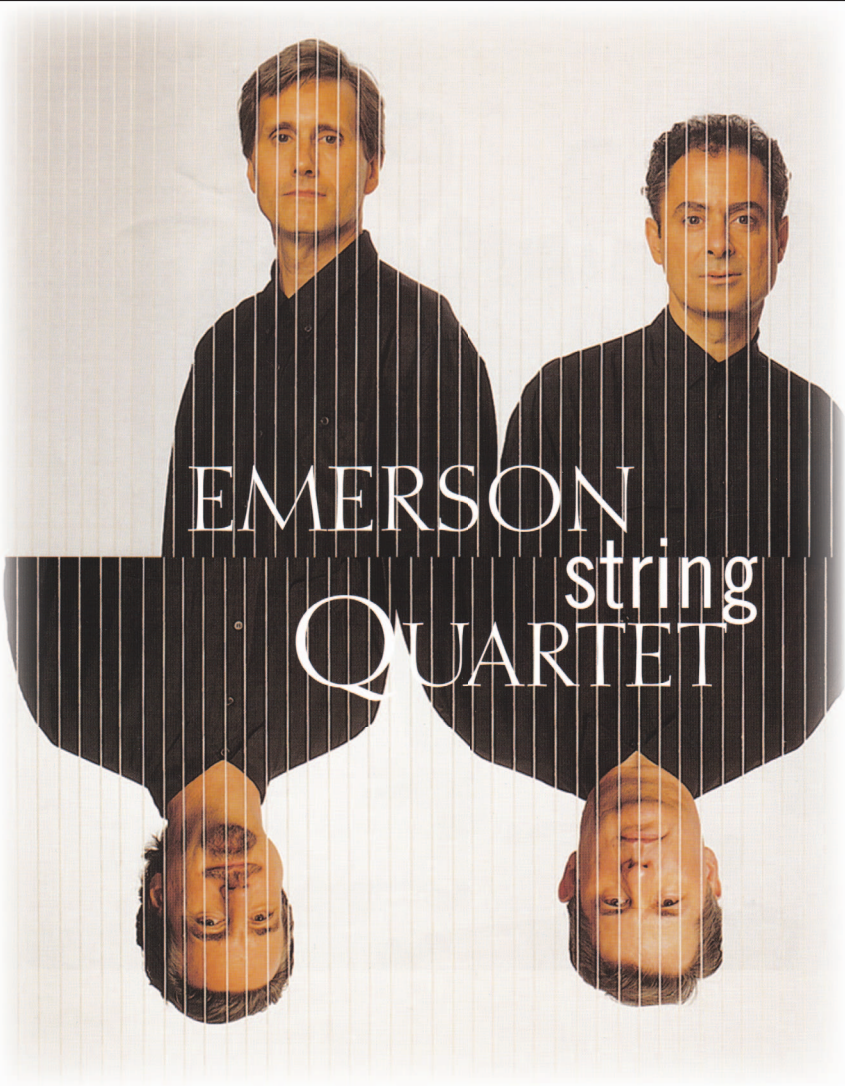
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# PHOTOS

Tuesday, April 10, 2007



BRANDON WOLF/THE EDGE  
At far left, a student waves a flag during a protest of the Iraq war outside of Forsyth Library last Wednesday. At top, a brass jam band known as Brass 'N Grass performs at the Brass Rail on Thursday. At left, comedian Vic Henley performs a sketch in Cody Commons in the Memorial Union last Wednesday, sponsored by UAB.



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*The New York Times*

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

# NEWS

Page 5

## Food for Thought helps area youth

Brandon Wolf  
Staff Writer

Hungry? Why wait?  
A charity group created by Fort Hays State Leadership students is making sure local children don't have to wait to satisfy their hunger over the weekends and during other breaks from school.

The program, called Food for Thought, is ran in accordance with Head Start and provides snacks to children over weekends and extended breaks. The children are given backpacks containing snacks such as graham crackers, juice drinks, crackers, cheese, raisins, cereal and granola bars and even milk, among other things.

The backpacks are distributed to students on Thursdays and brought back on Mondays to be replenished.

If the children fail to return the empty pack, they do not receive snacks for that week.

"It teaches them to be responsible and bring it back so they can keep getting the snacks," said Charles Lammers, who, along with Brady Larson, Ambers Stull, and Brady Wheeler, started the group as an assignment for their Leadership 310 course.

"When we were making decisions on what to pick, it was pretty easy to decide on this one," Lammers said. "We all had a desire to do something a little different with a more direct impact and so we chose Food for Thought."

Stull already works with special needs children, but the defining factor for her was watching a documentary on needy children in urban areas. "The things I was hearing and seeing about what they lived with on a daily basis were so heartbreaking, and I couldn't pass this up after reading about it."

While the program had some initial funding, much of the base funding has come from donations and sponsors. "It costs \$282 to feed one child for a year and with 25 students in the program, it comes out to \$7,050 per year, which obviously we don't have. So we've been asking area groups and businesses to sponsor one child for a year," Lammers said.

"Some of the groups have been reluctant," Wheeler said, "but it's a good cause and it helps the kids out, so eventually somebody goes for it."

Larson said he liked the versatility of the program, and how it could be done almost anywhere.

Since the group doesn't have much funding to work with, the members have been doing all they can to get the word out. At Village Inn, where Lammers works, employees are helping sponsor the program with the consent of management.

"For three dollars, the servers can wear jeans instead of dress pants or slacks, and it runs for a month," Lammers said. "They also let us set out an anonymous donations can, and so far, things have been really successful. Eagle Radio also set us up with a public service announcement, and things are starting to gel."

While their obligation for the class will be over soon, many plan to continue to work with Food For Thought.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or pledging a donation, contact the Hays Head Start director Donna Hudson-Hamilton at 623-2430.



BRANDON WOLF/THE EDGE  
In the above photo, students in the Leadership Studies 310 class who are operating the Food for Thought program pose with one of the backpacks they distributed to children filled with snacks. From left to right, they are Brady Larson, Brady Wheel, Charles Lammers and Amber Stull. The program helps children keep proper nutrition during weekends and other breaks from school.

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